

## **Congressman Childers Visits Southaven Middle School**

April 17, 2009

Washington, DC - Congressman Travis Childers (D-MS) visited Southaven Middle School today, where he answered selected questions from more than 90 letters sent by eighth grade students to his Washington, D.C. office. Under the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, DeSoto County School District will receive an estimated \$7.5 million in Title I and IDEA funds over the next two years to help save education-related jobs and maintain programs for low-income students and students with disabilities.

"With the serious issues facing today's youth and future generations, it's extremely important for young people to be involved and aware of how policy affects their communities," said Congressman Childers. "I commend Southaven Middle School students for taking part in this process.

"During today's tough economic times, Southaven Middle School and other schools in DeSoto County will benefit greatly from the significant funds provided by the Recovery Act. This money will help create and save jobs through teacher retention and school modernization, and will provide students with the resources they need to succeed in today's competitive economy."

The Recovery Act will provide an estimated \$49.1 million in funds for schools in all 24 counties of the First District and an estimated total of \$249.5 million for schools throughout Mississippi over the next two years. These funds will be given directly to individual school districts.

Nationwide, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act provides \$13 billion in Title I funds, which helps low-income students, and \$13.5 billion in IDEA funds, which helps students with disabilities. The second installment of direct funding for Title I and IDEA programs will be released to districts in the fall of this year.

IDEA is the major federal program that provides funding for special education and related services to students with disabilities. The Title I program provides funds to low-income school districts that are in even greater need during the economic downturn. The funds appropriated through the Recovery Plan are distributed through the previously defined IDEA and Title I formulas.

For more information on the First District's and Mississippi's share of Recovery Act funds, visit Congressman Childers' online Recovery Tracker at <http://www.childers.house.gov/> .

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